



# Voting Information News

March 2006 vs Vol. 16, No. 3

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## Voting Assistance Officers

### "To Do" This Month:

☒ Share your best practices by sending them up the chain or directly to FVAP. You can help others improve their voting assistance program by learning from your successes. Look at your unit voting assistance program, processes and procedures. You will find that there are some things you are doing very well with excellent results that others could use to improve awareness and participation in the absentee voting process.

☒ Be sure your installation or Embassy/Consulate operator has your name and telephone number for referrals.

☒ Inventory and replenish your stock of voting materials that were consumed during the last elections. Posters, forms, including the Federal Postcard Application (FPCA, SF-76), the Federal Write-in Absentee Voting Ballot (FWAB, SF-186), and the 2006-07 Voting Assistance Guide are available through your normal supply distribution channels.

**A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) for voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.**

## Ordering Voting Materials

Since the November issue of this newsletter, procedures have changed for ordering supplies. Maintaining an adequate supply of voting materials is an essential function of every Voting Assistance Officer (VAO). With the *Voting Assistance Guide* (VAG) currently in distribution, it is essential for every VAO to know the proper procedure for ordering new materials, such as the revised Federal Post Card Application (FPCA, SF 76), and Federal Write-In Ballot (FWAB, SF 186). The following can be used as a reference for VAOs to order new and replacement materials. The FVAP recommends stocking 4 FPCAs and 1 FWAB per voter, to include family members. For further information, contact your Service or Department of State Voting Action Office (see page 3).

### Department of State:

To restock supplies, each post should order the FPCA and FWAB forms through the normal General Services Administration (GSA) supply channel. GSA requires the funding information, the stock number, and the quantity. The Department recommends that each post stock four FPCAs for each potential voter. The FPCA stock number is 7540-00-634-5053. The Department recommends that posts stock at least one FWAB for each potential voter. The FWAB stock number is 7540-01-218-4384. For expedited service, send a request to GSA.

In order to notify local election officials of their current mailing address, the FVAP will continue to recommend that UOCAVA citizens submit an FPCA annually in the month of January and whenever they move or change their mailing address.

**Overseas Organizations and Citizen American Corporations** Representatives of organizations and corporations not associated with the Department of State or a Military Service may request the *Guide*, forms, posters, and

other materials directly from FVAP. The most efficient way to order the *Guide* is to e-mail the FVAP at [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov).

### Military Service Departments

#### Army:

There are Form/Publication numbers for the voting forms. The FPCA is Standard Form 76, the FWAB Standard Form 186, the VAG is Misc. Publication 360-02, motivational poster is DOD P-111, It's Your Future, motivational poster is DOD P-112 is Responsibility Has No Borders, and the 2006 State Primary Election Calendar.

VAOs are responsible for ensuring these items are ordered for their unit from the Army Publishing Directorate. The website for ordering forms and publications is [www.apd.army.mil](http://www.apd.army.mil). Each Army ordering agency has an account number and the items are mailed from the Distribution Operations Facility in St Louis, MO.

Voting materials ordered from the USAREUR Publications Office must be ordered from: <https://aepubs.army.mil> using the nomenclatures above.

#### Navy:

VAOs should order SF-76 and SF-186 through GSA using unit funds. Payment can be made either by credit card or by providing your FED/MILSTRIP. Further information can be found at [www.cni.navy.mil/NavyVote/Index.html](http://www.cni.navy.mil/NavyVote/Index.html) and following the Voting Supplies link.

While supplies last, SF-76 forms can be ordered 'for free' via the Navy Voting Website: SF-76 FPCA NSN 0506LP0103130 (3 per sailor). Free SF-186 FWAB forms are exhausted and will have to be purchased via GSA.

*Continued on page 4*

**Share your best practices!** Send your best practice(s), novel ideas and lessons learned to your Department of State or Service Voting Action Officer.

## "To Do" This Month

(continued):

☑ Make sure you are on the distribution list for *FVAP News Releases* and this newsletter, which is available by email, regular mail, or both and, on the FVAP Website. Because of their time-sensitive nature, *FVAP News Releases* are only distributed by e-mail and on the FVAP Website. To be added or to change your information on the distribution list send email to: [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov)

☑ We encourage you to make this VIN available to all the people that you are assisting. If you receive the VIN by email we recommend that it be forwarded to all members of your command or organization. Email will save paper and time in providing important voting information.

**NOTE:** The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the United States Federal Government, United States Department of Defense or the Federal Voting Assistance Program of the linked web sites, or the information, products or services contained therein. The Federal Voting Assistance Program does not exercise any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations.

## Partisan Do's & Don'ts for Members of the Armed Forces

During an election year, many active duty military members may wish to get involved in campaigning for their favorite candidate. What are the limits to their participation? Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, which covers Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty says that an Active Duty member of the Armed Forces:

- ☑ May register, vote, and express his or her personal opinion on political candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the Armed Forces.
- ☑ May promote and encourage other military members to exercise their voting franchise, if such promotion does not constitute an attempt to influence or interfere with the outcome of an election.
- ☑ May join a political club and attend its meetings when not in uniform.
- ☑ May serve as an election official if such service is not as a representative of a partisan political party, does not interfere with military duties, is performed while not in uniform, and with prior approval of the Secretary concerned.
- ☑ May sign a petition for specific legislative action or a petition to place a candidate's name on an official election ballot, if the signing does not obligate the member to engage in partisan political activity and is done as a private citizen and not as a representative of the Armed Forces.
- ☑ May write a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing the member's personal views on public issues or political candidates, if such action is not part of an organized letter-writing campaign or concerted solicitation of votes for or against a political party or partisan cause or candidate.
- ☑ May make monetary contributions to a political organization, party, or committee favoring a particular candidate or slate of candidates.
- ☑ May display a political sticker on the member's private vehicle.

The same Defense Directive 1344.10, says that Active Duty members of the Armed Forces may not engage in certain activities. Members of the Armed Forces:

- ☑ May not use official authority or influence to interfere with an election, affect the course or outcome of an election, solicit votes for a particular candidate or issue, or require or solicit political contributions from others.

☑ May not be a candidate for civil office in Federal, State or local government, or engage in public or organized soliciting of others to become partisan candidates for nomination or election to civil office.

☑ May not participate in partisan political management or campaigns, or make public speeches in the course thereof.

☑ May not solicit or receive a campaign contribution from another member of the Armed Forces or from a civilian officer or employee of the United States for promoting a political objective or cause.

☑ May not speak before a partisan political gathering of any kind for promoting a partisan political party or candidate.

☑ May not use contemptuous words against officeholders described in 10 USC 888.

☑ May not perform clerical or other duties for a partisan political committee during a campaign or on an election day.

☑ May not solicit or otherwise engage in fundraising activities in Federal offices or facilities, including military reservations, for a partisan political cause or candidate.

☑ May not sell tickets for, or otherwise actively promote, political dinners and similar fundraising events.

☑ May not allow or cause to be published partisan political articles signed or written by the member that solicit votes for or against a partisan political party or candidate.

☑ May not serve in any official capacity or sponsor a partisan political club.

☑ May not participate in any media or group discussions as a partisan advocate.

☑ May not conduct a political opinion survey.

☑ May not march or ride in a partisan political parade.

☑ May not display a large political sign, banner, or poster on a private vehicle (bumper stickers are allowed).

☑ May not participate in any partisan effort to provide voters with transportation to the polls.

☑ May not attend partisan political events as an official representative of the Armed Forces or while in uniform.

***This list is only meant as a guide. If you have specific questions consult DoD Directive 1344.10 or your legal or Judge Advocate General (JAG) Officer.***

## Special Congressional Primary Election for New Jersey on June 6th

On Tuesday, June 6, 2006, there will be a special primary election in New Jersey's 13th Congressional District to fill the seat of Congressman Bob Menendez. Congressman Menendez was appointed to fill a vacancy as a United States Senator. This special primary election will be held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled state primary election. All members of the U.S. Uniformed Services, their family members and citizens residing outside the U.S. who are New Jersey residents from the 13th District who request a ballot for the primary will receive this special ballot automatically. Do this by completing and submitting a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), SF-76, as soon as possible, if you have not done so already in calendar year 2006. The Registrar of Voters must receive applications for registration and request for absentee ballot not later than Friday, June 2, 2006. If you wish to receive your ballot by fax, the Registrar of Voters must receive your absentee ballot request not later than Friday, June 2, 2006.

The online version of the FPCA is available from the FVAP website at [www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpc.html](http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpc.html).

Chapter 3 of the *2006-07 Voting Assistance Guide* contains further instructions. The New Jersey state pages are available at: <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag/pdfvag/nj.pdf>

The Registrar of Voters must receive voted ballots by close of polls on Election Day. You may submit the completed FPCA by fax using the following toll-free fax numbers for the U.S. and Canada: 1-800-368-8683, (703) 693-5527 or DSN 223-5527 (military). Also, at [www.fvap.gov/services/faxing.html](http://www.fvap.gov/services/faxing.html), there is a list of toll-free fax numbers from overseas countries for use by U.S. citizens. Citizens may receive the blank ballot via fax and return the voted ballot by fax. Citizens who desire to receive their absentee ballot by fax should provide their county election official with their complete commercial fax number, including country codes necessary when dialing from the U.S.

A citizen returning the voted ballot by fax which was either received by mail or by fax should refer to Appendix C of the *2006-07 Voting Assistance Guide* (located at [www.fvap.gov/services/faxing.html](http://www.fvap.gov/services/faxing.html) for instructions and a cover sheet for use when transmitting the voted ballot by fax. Citizens should be sure to fax the entire ballot including any oath or signature required on the ballot-mailing envelope. After faxing, the ballot should also be returned by mail.



### Voting Action Officers

#### Department of State: Office of Overseas Citizens Services

Chief VAO: Mr. Jack Markey, **tel:** (202) 736-4937, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **Email:** [votinginfo@state.gov](mailto:votinginfo@state.gov)  
Deputy VAO: Ms. Linda Hoover, **tel:** (202) 647-5435, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **Email:** [votinginfo@state.gov](mailto:votinginfo@state.gov)

#### Service Voting Action Officers

**U.S. Dept. of the Army:** Mr. James Davis **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **DSN:** 221-4530; **fax:** (703) 325-4532  
**DSN fax:** 221-4532, **Email:** [davisj@hoffman.army.mil](mailto:davisj@hoffman.army.mil),  
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/TAGD/pssd/psb/votingindex.htm>

**U.S. Dept. of the Navy:** LT Dave Truman **tel:** 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672) (select option 6 from menu),  
**fax:** (901) 874-6825, **DSN fax:** 882-6825,  
**Email:** [vote@navy.mil](mailto:vote@navy.mil), <http://www.mwr.navy.mil/nvap/index.html>

**U.S. Dept. of the Air Force:** Mr. John Lowrance **tel:** (210) 565-5000, **toll free:** 1-800 616-3775 (Select options 1, then 1, then 2 from menu), **DSN** 665-5000; **fax:** (210) 565-2543, **DSN fax:** 665-2543;  
**Email:** [afpc/dpffofvotefund@randolph.af.mil](mailto:afpc/dpffofvotefund@randolph.af.mil); <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund/>

**U.S. Marine Corps:** Mr. David E. James **tel:** (703) 784-9511, **DSN:** 278-9511; **fax:** (703) 784-9823,  
**DSN fax:** 278-9823; **Email:** [david.e.james@usmc.mil](mailto:david.e.james@usmc.mil)  
[https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/pls/portal/url/page/m\\_ra\\_home/MR/Personnel/Voting](https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/pls/portal/url/page/m_ra_home/MR/Personnel/Voting)

**U.S. Coast Guard:** LTJG Dan Owen **tel:** (202)-267-1709, **fax:** (202) 267-4823;  
**Email:** [downen@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:downen@comdt.uscg.mil),  
[http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting\\_Assistance.htm](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting_Assistance.htm)

**All of the above can also be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP Website.**

## Federal Voting Assistance Program

Department of Defense  
1155 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC  
20301-1155

PHONE:  
(703) 588-1584  
DSN 425-1584

FAX  
(703) 696-1352  
DSN 426-1352

VOTING INFORMATION  
CENTER (VIC):  
(703) 588-1343  
DSN 425-1343

TOLL FREE (VIC and FVAP  
staff member):  
1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

Visit our website for  
international toll-free phone  
and fax numbers.

EMAIL:  
[vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov)

Comments or suggestions  
are welcome.

Website:  
[www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)

# Vote!

## Ordering Voting Materials (continued)

VAGs and promotional posters are automatically distributed to all commands on the Standard Navy Distribution List. For commands with limited financing for purchase of supplies, please contact Navy Voting Program Manager for assistance.

### Air Force:

Air Force IVOs order voting materials at: [afpubs.hq.af.mil](http://afpubs.hq.af.mil). IVOs may establish an on-line account to order the materials or place their order through an Organizational Account Representative (OAR). OARs are squadron personnel (normally in the orderly room/CSS) who order forms and publications. Units are not charged for voting materials. The Air Force makes a one-time automatic shipment of new Voting Assistance Guides and posters to the MPF Customer Service section. Customer Service personnel contact IVOs upon receipt of materials. Additional copies may be ordered through the Air Force Publications website above. The SF 76, Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and SF 186, Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) must be ordered on-line. Order four FPCAs and one FWAB for each military member assigned. Voting information is available at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/airmenvotes/](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/airmenvotes/).

### Marine Corps:

Marine Corps VAOs may order the FPCA (SF76) and FWAB (SF186) through unit supply officers via SABRES or directly from GSA. The *Voting Assistance Guide* is available through unit S-1 offices via MCPDS or may be requested from the SVAO. Marine Corps VAOs may also obtain information on ordering voting materials by accessing [www.manpower.usmc.mil/voting](http://www.manpower.usmc.mil/voting). Once on the webpage, click the link in the right column for Required Voting Materials. Internet Explorer works best for navigating this site.

### Coast Guard:

FPCAs and FWABs must be ordered using unit funds from GSA using the following data:

FPCA NSN 7540-00-634-5053 Unit of Issue: 1 HD  
FWAB NSN 7540-01-218-4384 Unit of Issue: 1 HD.

VAGs are automatically distributed through the DOT warehouse whenever a new edition is issued. Any unit on distribution that failed to receive their issue should contact LTJG Dan Owen (contact information available at [www.fvap.gov/vao/vao.html](http://www.fvap.gov/vao/vao.html)). There is also a Coast Guard Instruction to guide VAOs: Federal Voting Assistance Program, COMDTINST 1742.3(SERIES).

**Moving?** Send an FPCA to notify your local election official. Also, send us an email so that you and your replacement can continue receiving this *newsletter*.

**Federal Voting Assistance Program**  
Department of Defense  
1155 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1155



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